



Kenneth P. Stetler

April 27, 1929 - August 16, 2014

Kenneth P. Stetler, 85, of Rising Sun, Indiana, was ushered by angels from his earthly home into the presence of Jesus on the afternoon of Saturday, August 16, 2014.

He was born April 27, 1929 in Attica, Indiana, a son of the late Dewey Ellsworth and Ethel Ona (Ross) Stetler.

Rev. Kenneth Stetler grew up working as a farm hand on a large Northwestern Indiana farm. His early life's goal was to own a farm and to raise show crops and animals. Then, God began to change those plans and prepare him for a much larger work that would take him well beyond the flat lands of Indiana with an influence that would touch thousands of lives. One day as he was plowing corn, conviction gripped his heart. He stopped the tractor, bowed in a nearby ditch and asked God to save him. That prayer changed him and his plans. Soon, he was heading to God's Bible School & College in Cincinnati, Ohio, to study for the ministry. When he arrived on campus, his possessions were in cardboard boxes tied up with binder twine. The cab driver who dropped him off at the school assured him that the office was in "that building" - pointing to the girl's dorm! That embarrassing moment was his introduction to a school that became his home for the next 40 years.

Rev. Stetler graduated from God's Bible School and College with both Th.B.

and A.B. degrees. Following his graduation, he was hired by the college as a professor, a position that he retained most of his adult life. He also served the college as Dean of Men. Concurrent with his teaching years, he pastored a Pilgrim Holiness Church in Falmouth, Kentucky and a Free Methodist church in eastern Cincinnati. When the Free Methodists chose to move to the suburbs of the city, he went back to the same area and established East End Chapel. Services were held in a former tire store, and the Stetler family lived above the chapel in an apartment. Rev. Stetler also filled in as pastor at Mount Carmel Wesleyan Mission and the Loveland Wesleyan Chapel, both in the Cincinnati area. In the 1970's, he started the United Holiness Church in the Swifton section of Cincinnati. In 1975, he moved to Salem, Ohio and served for three years as Academic Dean of Allegheny Wesleyan College. He then returned to God's Bible School & College where he taught until retirement. Rev. Stetler has a M. Ed. degree from the University of Cincinnati and an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from God's Bible School and College.

His retirement years were spent in Rising Sun, Indiana, where he returned to his roots by having a large garden. He loved the soil and the joy of tilling and harvesting its fruit. He enjoyed his family and had a unique ability to make every child, grandchild and great-grandchild feel special and needed. His sphere of influence also included his many neighbors and friends in the Rising Sun area.

Hundreds of students who sat under his instruction are now pastoring, teaching, and doing mission work around the globe. Rev. Stetler was known for his faithfulness, his humility, and his kindness to everyone. Only heaven will reveal the true accomplishments of a humble man who gave his all to God.

Rev. Stetler is survived by his faithful companion and the love of his life, Jewel (Lamb) Stetler, whom he married on July 21, 1950; six children, P. Daniel

(wife: Joan) Stetler of Hobe Sound, FL, David (wife: Marsha) Stetler of Mt. Airy, NC, Darrell (wife: Regina) Stetler of Burlington, KY, Frances Stetler of Penns Creek, PA, Stephen (wife: Beth) Stetler of Edinburg, TX and Trilinda Stetler of Rising Sun, IN; 16 grandchildren, Aimee (husband: Chad) Snyder of Altamont, KS, Paul Stetler of Hobe Sound, FL, Elisa (husband: Mark) Calderon of Oklahoma City, OK, Julie Stetler and Sarah Stetler both of Hobe Sound, FL, Brent (wife: Denisa) Stetler of Frankfort, IN, Kendall (wife: Sherri) Stetler of Liberty, SC, Kelly Stetler and Benjamin (wife: Stacey) Stetler both of Hobe Sound, FL, Alisha Stetler of Mt. Airy, NC, Darrell Lee (wife: Elizabeth) Stetler II of Oklahoma City, OK, Merrilee (husband: Brant) Luther of Alliance, OH, Sherilyn (husband: Andrew) Stroud and Kenneth Stetler both of Burlington, KY, Kent Stetler and Maria Stetler both of Cincinnati, OH; 10 great-grandchildren, Gracie, Darrell Lee III, Heath, Caleb, Gideon, Brett, Brooke, Bryland, Wilson and Marshall; his eleventh great-grandchild, Clarke Daniel Calderon, will be soon arriving.

Also surviving are three sisters, Marjorie Poe of Frankfort, IN, Pat (husband: Dave) Burris of Attica, IN and Emma (husband: Ed) Highlander of Frankfort, IN; a brother, Monte (wife: Mary) Stetler of Columbus, IN; a brother-in-law, Charles Marck of Logan, OH; a sister-in-law, Charlotte Stetler of Phoenix, AZ and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Rev. Stetler was preceded in death by three sisters, Dorothy Tharp, Naomi Marck and Mary Kerns and a brother, James Stetler.

Rev. Stetler attended the Burlington Bible Methodist Church and desired that his service be held there. However, due to space limitations, the family sought larger accommodations nearby. The family would like to express heartfelt thanks to the Burlington Baptist congregation for opening their facility to our family.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, August 23, 2014 at the Burlington Baptist Church, 3031 Washington St., Burlington, KY, with his four sons officiating. Burial will follow in Cedar Hedge Cemetery in Rising Sun, Indiana.

The family will receive friends from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Friday at the church and an hour prior to the service Saturday.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Sproles Family Funeral Home, New Castle, Indiana. You are invited to send the family a personal condolence at www.sprolesfamilycares.com.

The Sproles family and staff are honored to serve the family of Rev. Kenneth P. Stetler.

Cemetery Details

Cedar Hedge Cemetery

316 Downey St.
Rising Sun, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **22**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Burlington Baptist Church
3031 Washington St
Burlington, KY 41005

Service

AUG **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Burlington Baptist Church
3031 Washington St
Burlington, KY 41005

Tribute Wall



“ *Sproles Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Kenneth P. Stetler*



Sproles Family Funeral Home - August 18, 2014 at 06:32 PM

RH

“ *On the behalf of the Alabama Bible Methodist Connection of Churches we wish to express our sympathy and assured prayers for the Stetler family. Rev. Kenneth Stetler was a spiritual giant as a professor at GBS while wife and I were students there. He always was gracious, kind and understanding. We also rented a house from him while we were students at GBS. We know the the Lord will comfort and sustain his wonderful family throughout this time of sorrow. Rev. Walter Hedstrom-President of the Alabama Bible Methodist Conference*

Rev. Walter Hedstrom - August 26, 2014 at 07:30 AM

CB

“ I was privileged to spend all of my teen years as Kenneth Stetler's next door neighbor. Growing up in the inner-city Danny England, Robbie England and I spent countless hours together in the backyard right next to the Stetler's back porch. He was always warm, cheerful and effective at connecting with us individually. From harmonica lessons to lending us camping cots he eagerly show interest in our ideas and activities. We learned to admire him and treasured our interactions with him.

Then in the summer of 1986, Kevin Moser, Scott Butler, Tim LeBaron, Dan Plemmons and I took a 15,000 mile singing tour across the eastern part of the country. Our group was blessed to have Bro. Stetler as traveling chaperone, friend and spiritual mentor. He was a model of consistency who taught us to love each other and that it was okay to tear up when our heart was touched by a hymn or a patriotic verse.

He was a man of impeccable character and an exemplary father and husband, who prioritized his relationship with God above all. I am filled with gratitude for the gift of his friendship and the indelible influence he has made on my life. Because of Christ, our relationship holds enduring promise filled with unforgettable memories and the unspeakable hope of and eternal reunion in the presence of our Lord.

Craig Brown - August 22, 2014 at 03:51 PM

WB

“ Wesley and I met at AWC where Bro. Stetler quickly became our favorite professor. I was blessed again when I transferred to GBS where again I got to sit under the voice of Bro. Stetler. Our heartfelt sympathy and love goes to each one in the Stetler family at this time of great loss. Our loss. Heaven's gain. What a hope is ours!!!!

Wesley & Robin (Bromley) Bennett - August 21, 2014 at 07:12 PM

LS

“ Leonard and Janet Sankey purchased the Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." for the family of Kenneth P. Stetler.



Leonard and Janet Sankey - August 21, 2014 at 06:12 PM

JN

“ Julia N. purchased the Blooming Garden Basket for the family of Kenneth P. Stetler.



Julia N. - August 21, 2014 at 01:54 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Kenneth P. Stetler.



August 21, 2014 at 10:34 AM

JP

“ Kenneth Stetler will live on in the lives of his family and his students. To those who knew Brother Stetler, you could never truthfully deny that there is a reality to the sanctified life. Our deepest sympathy to his wife and family. Our sincere thanksgiving for this life well lived.

James and Marie Plank - August 20, 2014 at 03:52 PM

TG

“ I first met Rev. Stetler when we were pioneering what is now the Kenwood Bible Methodist Church in Cincinnati. He came to tune our church piano, and I immediately realized that this was a true man of God. Throughout the years, he and his family have been very special friends to our family. I know we shall all miss him now, but there is no doubt we will join together again at the great reunion in heaven. May God's wonderful grace sustain the entire Stetler family during this sad time. - Terry and Ella Ruth Going

Terry D. and Ella Ruth Going - August 20, 2014 at 11:24 AM

CR

“ Our love, sympathy, and prayers go out to the Kenneth Stetler family. Bro. Stetler lived his love for God before us as students at Allegheny Wesleyan College. He was one of the very best teachers we had. It also has been a joy to watch Bro and Sis Steler cherish their relationship with each other. You could see the love and devotion between them in their marriage. He will be greatly missed but Heaven is more precious.

Clint & Darla Ritchey - August 20, 2014 at 07:09 AM

DB

“ Rev. Kenneth Stetler was my teacher at Allegheny Wesleyan College during my preparation for the ministry. What a wonderful instructor he was. He was so practical and his love for God shown through his life & ministry. Thank God for this precious man and family.
Our hearts go out to you at this time. We send our love & prayers to you all.
Rev. David & Debbie Blowers from Marion Wesleyan Methodist Church(Ohio)

David Blowers - August 19, 2014 at 08:08 PM

“ My thoughts triggered to expression by the photo of the hummingbird, clearwing moth posted by Trilinda at the time of Brother Stetler's passing.

*As the moth's burgundy colors against the green leaves catch the passing eye,
So Kenneth Stetler stands out in the church and the world at large,
But in contrast to the insect's small and insignificant existence,
Brother Stetler lived large and significant in godly stature.*

*Kind and gentle, yet forthright,
Courageous to speak the truth;
He was a man of conviction and faith unwavering,
Yet not-condemning and patient with those less persuaded.*

*He was serious and sincere about the basics of life,
Yet bursting with laughter at any wholesome humor;
Steady and solid and always in control,
But open, approachable, and ever outgoing.*

*A teacher of teachers, he could drive the point home;
He would face you with reality and make you believe.
Yet, he was ready to listen with serious contemplation
And bend over backward to see your point of view.*

*Discerning and perceptive, he could identify your potential,
Then tactfully inspire you to confidently live it out.
He was not forceful, but positive and reassuring,
Taking advantage of every teaching moment.*

*Optimistic and faithful against the most difficult odds,
Few lived on less income and accomplishing as much.
He raised a large, godly family on a thread and a shoestring,
While doggedly persisting in training Christian workers.*

*With that ready smile and light in his eyes
When he shook your hand with a warm grasp,
You were assured he had a keen interest in you,
As well as joyful enthusiasm about life in general.*

*Not flashy or earth-shaking, but consistent and persistent,
A master at keeping his priorities straight;
This teacher of teachers! mentor of mentors! father of fathers!
We will never forget him!*

Larry Grabill

Larry Grabill - August 19, 2014 at 07:21 PM

KD

“*Bro Stetler was my speech teacher while at GBS , he was a wonderful presence on Campus and his influence was a great one:) His consistent Godly life is seen in the life of his family members. what a wonderful man, sorry I cannot make it to the funeral but by thoughts and prayers are with the entire family, May God continue to give you grace and strength during these rough days ahead, and remember we are to far from where we started to ever turn back:) we will see him again!!!!*

Kim Davis - August 19, 2014 at 12:59 PM


Beverly
Tallent

“*We all remember how special he was, a gentleman, father, teacher, spiritual leader..man of God...I remember his kindness...prayers go out to his family.*

Beverly Tallent - August 19, 2014 at 12:33 PM

JS

“*Brother Kenneth Stetler--a man I observed from afar when I was a child, had the privilege of sitting under his teaching in Bible College, and serving on conference committees with him. There are men more gifted than Brother Stetler, but I have found none wiser nor more considerate and loving than this man. I have been with him numerous times when these attributes were seriously challenged; I have never known an individual more consistent. What a pillar and example of Jesus Brother Steter has been in my life!*
Joe Smith, Pastor Shelbyville Bible Holiness Church

Joe Smith - August 19, 2014 at 11:12 AM

CM

“*Charles Marck purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Kenneth P. Stetler.*



Charles Marck - August 19, 2014 at 09:24 AM

SE

“ I am one of those many individuals whose lives have been forever impacted by Kenneth Stetler's Godly life. His example of integrity, consistency, and unwavering devotion to God has been an inspiration to me as I have remembered him over the years. I have fond memories of sitting under his teaching--telling my kids about the open-ended essay final in Synoptic Gospels and the 7 a.m. English Lit class (which I actually looked forward to). As I write these words, I am saddened to think that his wonderful example is no longer here for the current generation, but also gladdened to think of his joy at meeting Jesus and hearing the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

I will be praying for you all in the days ahead.

Steve Enyart

Steve Enyart - August 19, 2014 at 08:02 AM

JK

“ We were privileged to have Brother Stetler as a teacher at GBS; later he became a much-loved and treasured friend. We were blessed to have him in our home for one unforgettable weekend when he was filling the pulpit for the pastor of the Barberton Wesleyan Methodist Church. It was just like having a member of our family present as we reminisced and chuckled while sharing some amusing events from the past. (By the way, who was that "mystery man" who flew a plane under the bridge in Cincinnati?) His steady walk with the Lord and the memory of his comfortable presence will linger with us for a long time. The Stetler family has a very special place in our hearts, greatly loved and respected. Our hearts and prayers are with you.

Jack Kabellar - August 19, 2014 at 06:13 AM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Kenneth P. Stetler.



August 19, 2014 at 06:05 AM



“ Rev. Kenneth Stetler was one of the first to greet me when I arrived on G.B.S. campus in January of 1965 to begin classes that second semester. His warm greeting and evident personal interest meant so much. His concern for the Spiritual welfare of all students was always so intense. Prayers and condolences are sent to all the family.

Jim Davis

Jim Davis - August 18, 2014 at 07:46 PM



“ Our sincere sympathy goes out to the whole Stetler family. Brother Stetler was a wonderful example of a Godly man. It was a great pleasure to have had the opportunity to sit in his classes at GBS. This world has lost a wonderful saint. Heaven looks better every day. God bless each of you. Rick and Teresa (Root) Robinson..Anderson,In

Rick Teresa (Root) Robinson - August 18, 2014 at 06:43 PM

JH

“*Bro Stether really encouraged me during a critical time in my life. Have often thought of him and his Christ like spirit over the years. We shared an interest for beagles and writing. I think he got a, kick out of my beagle escaping and chasing rabbits around Mt Auburn. I don't think anyone else really appreciated it very much. I wish we could have had a visit once more before he departed. Soon...*

John Hughes - August 18, 2014 at 03:56 PM

HM

“*Hobe Sound Ministries purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of Kenneth P. Stetler.*



Hobe Sound Ministries - August 18, 2014 at 02:35 PM

RC

“*Brother Stetler was my Dean of Men, my Literature Teacher, and my spiritual mentor when I was a student at GBS from 1962-67. He encouraged me to become mature in my faith and prayed with me on several occasions at the chapel altar. I was surprised and blessed when he and Sister Stetler surprised me by being special guests at a "This is Your Life" service that the Mt. Zion Wesleyan Church of New Castle, Indiana surprised me with in 2002. What a blessing.*

Robert G. Van Cise - August 18, 2014 at 02:11 PM

EB

“ To the Family of Bro. Stetler,
You have the sympathy of Martha and me.
We arrived at God's Bible School (high school) while he was still a part of the student body. Later we had him as a teacher, Martha in a never-to-be-forgotten speech class, and me for several classes - my BA is in Literature.
One particular semester I was privileged to have Leslie D Wilcox, George Stepp, and Kenneth P Stetler as professors. As known across the Holiness churches, Wilcox was the Prince of careful theologians and a great man. Stepp was an equally good and an inspirational man. With due respect to these two (and I do mean due respect - I admired them both) Bro. Stetler was the best teacher of the three. I am glad to have seen him in action in God's Bible School's classrooms - probably the best of my college profs.

Edgar A Bryan - August 18, 2014 at 02:09 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Kenneth P. Stetler.



August 18, 2014 at 11:43 AM

RE

“ A Godly, good example to me as a young girl at GBS. I have told many, Bro. Stetler was my favorite teacher. I have appreciated his life and his influence over the years. One more reason to make Heaven our eternal home. My sympathies are with you, his family. What a wonderful heritage you have!

Robyn (Deets) Evans - August 18, 2014 at 10:56 AM

Judith
Wade-
Totten

“ I never met Brother Stetler, but I do know several of his children and grandchildren and know that he has truly left a godly heritage! May God bless his memory and comfort his family during this time.

Judith Wade-Totten - August 18, 2014 at 09:38 AM

MB

“ I have such fond memories of uncle Kenny and all of you. I always respected his values and his love of God and his family. We may be miles apart from each other but our hearts are bound together by love. R.I.P Uncle Kenny. Love Melinda



melinda bulla - August 17, 2014 at 09:59 PM

JB

“ Bro. Stetler's ministry helped me spiritually when I lived in Cincinnati many years ago. May each of you find comfort in the God of all Comforts and have joy in knowing he has reached his ultimate goal- Heaven!

Janet Burton - August 17, 2014 at 04:01 PM

MA

“ A wonderful, godly man who exemplified the beauty of holiness throughout his life. He was my favorite college professor while a student at GBS. Only Heaven will reveal the many lives that have been influenced by Bro. Stetler! May the arms of our heavenly Father surround the family in these days and keep you all in His care until you meet again!

Marteena Armour - August 17, 2014 at 03:25 PM

LS

“ Dear Stetler family: Among the many treasures we have lost in the passing of Kenneth Stetler is the pattern of a godly consistent life. From my first memories of Kenneth, Jewel, and Dan at GBS in 1954, and encompassing the Free Methodist Mission on Eastern Avenue, the Rock of Ages quartet, being fellow students, and then upon his graduation, having Kenneth as my teacher, my and our lives have been immeasurably blessed by his influence. We couldn't have known, then, how our families would become entwined in later years, but the rich tapestry of a 60 year friendship is beautiful to contemplate.
Leonard and Janet Sankey.

Leonard Sankey - August 17, 2014 at 03:20 PM

NB

“ Brother Stetler was like a father to many of the students who had the opportunity to sit under his ministry of teaching or to have had him as their pastor. He was a godly man who left behind a wonderful example for us all to follow. May we all walk as he walked and then enjoy a reunion just inside the gates of glory. Enjoy the reward of your faithful service. You will be always be regarded with fond memories.

Norman Black - August 17, 2014 at 03:06 PM

TH

“ He was a great Christian and teacher.
Tina Stuard Howard

Tina Stuard Howard - August 17, 2014 at 12:32 PM

RM

“ We still talk about the time Bro. and Sis. Stetler and some of the children were on vacation in Michigan and stopped by our house on the way home. They spent the night with us, he tuned our piano, and they were on their way home to Cincinnati all too soon. We send our love and prayers to the whole family. Sincerely, Rev. Max K. Masters

Rev. Max K. Masters - August 17, 2014 at 12:26 PM